

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
Yogo Inn, Lewistown, Montana  
Friday, July 18, 2008

In attendance were Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members Sharon Lincoln, Katherine Lee, Jack Lepley, Jim Murry, Lee Rostad, Crystal Wong Shors, Ed Smith, Shirley Groff, Steve Lozar, Thomas Nygard, and George Horse Capture. Also in attendance were MHS Director Richard Sims, MHS Administrative Assistant Renee Podell, MHS State Historic Preservation Officer Mark Baumlner, MHS Administrator Denise King, MHS Research Center Program Manager Molly Kruckenberg, MHS Museum Program Manager Bill Mercer, MHS Outreach and Interpretation Program Manager Kirby Lambert, MHS Membership Coordinator Kim Ramuta, Lewistown Historic Preservation Officer Duane Ferdinand and Bureau of Land Management Archeologist Zane Fulbright.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Sharon Lincoln called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. George Horse Capture gave the blessing of the meeting.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF, NEW BOARD TRUSTEE AND NEW OFFICERS**

Richard introduced the MHS Membership Coordinator Kim Ramuta. Sharon Lincoln welcomed the new Board of Trustee member Ed Smith and named the new officers of the Board as follows: President Jim Murry, Vice-President Jim Utterback, and Secretary Steve Lozar and Tom Nygard are on the Executive Committee. Sharon turned the gavel over to the new president of the Board Trustees.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**Sharon Lincoln moved to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2008 meeting, Shirley Groff seconded, all voted in favor and the motion carried.**

**FACILITY EXPANSION UPDATE**

Richard explained we are waiting for the results of Governor Schweitzer's second challenge to the mall proponents to raise enough money for the mall. The mall proponents and the Montana History Foundation have been challenged to raise 13 million dollars by November 15<sup>th</sup>. That challenge was issued almost two months ago. We will help, however we weren't challenged to help raise the money. Shirley Groff asked Richard if we are in danger of losing the \$7.5 that was assigned to the Society in bonding authority in the 2005 Legislature. Richard answered by saying yes, the Society is in danger of losing the bonding authority. He explained that the legal language that created that authority does not specify the mall, however, clearly the expectation from the hearings was the money was meant for the mall. Further he explained that the upcoming Legislative session will bring about discussion of overall state management of property from purchasing property, to leasing property for state offices. The larger discussion of

the state's role as property owner or property leasor will see the Society rolled up in that discussion and it will further weaken our hold on that money. Shirley commented it is her hope the Society has some kind of legislative strategy to pursue. Jim Murry stated the Governor's office is already in the process of developing strategy but it is too early to finalize until after the election so they can see what the makeup of the Legislature will be. Richard stated he understands Shirley's concerns and that all of us share the thought that the Society go into the Legislature with a strong position rather than a vulnerable position, however, our agenda is only one thread in the tapestry. There will be complex strategizing going on in the Governor's office on a lot of issues. It is yet to be known exactly what the Society's role will be.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW /CENTRALIZED SERVICES**

Denise King reported fiscal year end closes next week and a complete report will come out in the fall. She announced MHS is within budget. No contingency funds were requested which makes this the first time in several years that MHS has not asked for these funds. Denise said thanks to all the program managers for helping manage the budget. She recapped how bed tax monies were spent within the programs. Molly Kruckenberg's program had 24 people from around the state come for training on oral histories and they were trained on how to use the oral history equipment. The Museum program put on a variety of wonderful exhibits and new IT equipment and expanded software was purchased for them. Money went to the textbook project. Tours received money. The Butte Music Festival, education training, and the Scriver Center received money. The Original Governor's Mansion now has an ADA approved bathroom. The Moss Mansion received a beautiful new carpet runner. Good work is being done within the building and outside the building. Denise said an agency wide performance evaluation will be complete in July. This is the first time the agency has done an agency wide performance evaluation. She noted there has been three recent retirements from the agency. The store is on track for the grand opening in August with the work is being done in house by Todd Saarinen and a student intern Cary Yupee from the Museum program. Denise worked with the Department of Administration to bring \$20,000 worth of ergonomic equipment into the Society to support staff. In the new fiscal year we are working to get air conditioning in the SHPO building. This fiscal year we are using our \$19,200 to bring new IT equipment into the Society. There will be 20 new computers. This is the first time in years the Society has had a computer replacement program. A new MHS rack card was printed. We are using funds wisely and doing some analysis on finding even better ways to use the funds. Work continues with the Governor's budget office on budget 2011. Denise announced the Western Rendezvous of Art will be coming and encouraged everyone to attend and to participate. She reminded the Board that next year the Society will not be partnering with the Civic Center. We will have to be prepared to handle all of the activities without the Civic Center Board's help. Sharon Lincoln congratulated Richard, Denise and staff for staying within budget. She said this is a big accomplishment and noted that the Society has not experienced this in a long time. Sharon said, "great job". Jim Murry stated the comment had been made during the executive meeting that the staff has already begun the fund raising process, with the work being done, which is, simply by playing real heads up ball. He said a tremendous job is being done by all. Lee Rostad made an appeal to all the Board members to attend the

Western Rendezvous of Art. Ed Smith stated he has participated in the WRA for many years and it is truly a fine event. He plans on attending once again.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Richard introduced the new MHS Membership Coordinator, Kim Ramuta and asked her to tell the Board about herself. Kim gave a brief work history and told the Board she is very pleased to work in membership. Richard announced that he has asked Kim to look at two work tasks right away. One will be to master the software purchased in house and the other to revisit our Smithsonian affiliation relationship launched last winter. The Smithsonian membership marketing along with ours is a great benefit for those who would buy two memberships. It has helped many museums around the country boost their membership and we want to make sure the Smithsonian relationship gets back on the front burner.

Richard announced the five-year strategic plan isn't just a document that we need for reaccreditation at the national level, it is a document we need. The principle architects of the draft will be Richard and Susan Near and they will visit with each of the program managers and get their thoughts and content and then a draft of the plan will be brought to the Board at the October meeting. The Boards review should be complete for finalization of the strategic plan for operations and growth by the January Board meeting.

The second year of grant awards working with the Office of Public Instruction and the Indian Education for All Act was received. The grants are called Best Practices in Museums and Schools working with Indian education and Indian culture. Ten entirely new museums were awarded this go around. Sprinkled around Montana are 20 grants of \$7500 each for museums, mostly the small or the very small museums, to either improve the management of their Native American material or to improve their presentation of material through better exhibits and public programs. Richard encouraged Lewistown to apply for a grant next year. Richard said he salutes Denise Juneau, Mandy Smoker Broaddus and Mike Jetty at the Indian Education Office for being a big part of this activity and its success.

Richard commented that as he travels the state he learns more and more that local history tends to want to stay local. Small communities look to us as kind of the mother ship. They look to us as a model of the best research and museum behavior. When grant money is sent and we go out amongst the people as consultants we must remember people are real proud of what they have done locally. As we become so involved with our challenges in Helena, we need to remember that every museum in all 56 counties is taking on their own challenges and holding onto their own history. Our work, Richard believes, is to help them do that.

The 20/10 initiative launched by the Governor means by the year 2010 there will be in state government, with state workers, a 20% reduction in energy usage. Building modifications and behavior modifications are key to this success. How the Board might want to consider this initiative, given Montana's great distances, is to have as many video or telephone conferencing meetings as we can. Richard said he isn't too enamored of this idea for this Board because

museum society work is people work, however, there may be times when we do find it is prudent.

Richard commented that the Code of Ethics draft reflects a lot of work primarily through Susan Near. The latest draft has gone to the Board and the only discussion area to finally resolve is the issue of Board and staff being involved in personal collecting. Crystal Wong Shors and Tom Nygard have given a lot of thought to this issue and presented the following language to be inserted into the Code of Ethics, Page 9, Trustee Conflict of Interest document: "The Montana Historical Society recognizes the vast array of individuals whose authoritative knowledge qualify them to serve as Trustees of the Society based on the needs and requirements of Montana statute and the Governor. We also acknowledge that many of these individuals come by their authority based on direct involvement in the business of history and its assets. Therefore, it is a requirement that those Trustees whose business is history, and who are appointed by the governor, possess the utmost of integrity and dedication to the Montana Historical Society. No Trustee shall allow their personal business of history to interfere with their position as a member of the Board of Trustees. No Trustee shall allow themselves to be in a conflict of interest, be it actual, assumed or implied with the business of the Society." Richard revisited the sticking point from the last Board meeting explaining the current language found in the Code of Ethics seemed to inhibit Board members engaged in personal or professional history work from being on the Board. He commented that examples from other museums were reviewed. Richard noted he likes this proposed language. He encouraged discussion. Lee Rostad said the proposed language is simple and fulfills the need for change found in the previous language. Sharon Lincoln agreed with Lee's comments. **Lee Rostad moved to accept the language proposed by Crystal Shors and Tom Nygard. Sharon Lincoln seconded the motion.** Tom Nygard clarified that the new language replaces language found on Page 9, in the bullets under Trustee Conflict of Interest, Code of Ethics. **Lee Rostad amended her motion by deleting the language currently found in the first bullet and the new language (proposed by Tom Nygard and Crystal Shors) be inserted and the language in the last bullet be deleted in its entirety.** Crystal Shors commented the new language is all inclusive and simply stated is protection for the Board. Sharon said the current language found in the bullets is overkill. The language proposed in this motion addresses the question very clearly and completely. **Lee Rostad further amended her motion by deleting all the current language found under Trustee Conflict of Interest, Page 9, Code of Ethics and replacing it with the paragraph proposed by Crystal Shors and Tom Nygard. Sharon Lincoln seconded the revision and the motion carried unanimously.**

Richard presented a banner for the Board's review introducing the new logo for the MHS. He announced the logo reads as follows: "Big Sky, Big Land, Big History, Montana Historical Society". He credited MHS Graphic Designer, Diane Hall, with the design of the new logo. The Society is in the process of changing over business cards, letterhead, and envelopes with the new look.

## **OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION PROGRAM REPORT**

Kirby announced the arrival of the long awaited Montana history textbook and presented a newly printed copy for the Board's review. He reported that the teachers institute was a tremendous success with 24 teachers attending from all over the state. Many of the teachers said this was the best institute they have ever attended. Kirby said the Victorian doll party will be held on August 11<sup>th</sup> at the Original Governor's Mansion. The unique event was a huge success last year and he feels it will be again this year. He encouraged everyone to bring their dolls and join in. The history camp will be held in Virginia City the last week in July. There is still room available for kids to attend. He said it should be a lot of fun. Richard reminded the Board he will be at the camp preparing son-of-a-gun stew and cornbread in his Dutch oven. Kirby said they just received a \$20,000 grant to participate in the Big Read. It is sponsored by the NEA Institute of Museum and Library Services and is dedicated to encouraging kids to read. From the books that are part of the Big Read list, his program chose the "*Grapes of Wrath*" because it corresponds with the observance of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Deal. He will be working with the Montana Small School Alliance. Each student will get a copy of "*Grapes of Wrath*" and a copy of "*Hope in Hard Times*" in order to see the big picture and to see what is going on in Montana. Money is available to bring in speakers to work with the kids on a subject matter. There were only four grants given in Montana and Kirby listed them as follows: Montana Historical Society, Lewis and Clark County Library, Kalispell Library and the Library in Billings. Kirby said he would like to do away with charging fees for student groups. Richard commented he is confident he will find underwriting for this. He said it is \$.50 per child and it is just a chore for the teachers. He noted the Board could up and waive it right now but Richard would like to wait until October and be sure there is replacement money.

Jim Court stated he noticed in the publications report that there were twice as many requests for textbooks as there were textbooks to give out. He asked Kirby if there is a possibility that more funding can be found to pay for more free books. Kirby commented that the potential is very good. Martha spoke to the Washington Foundation and several groups who donated money and these folks were waiting for the textbook to come out to see the reaction and then they would look into printing another 5,000. The textbooks are \$49.95 each with schools getting a discount. Jim asked what the printing costs were. Kirby guessed that it was about \$200,000, but said he would get a more accurate and official accounting. Crystal Shor said she would like to congratulate Martha Kohl and all of the staff that worked so hard on this masterpiece. She also thanked Lee Rostad who got the textbook started. Crystal wondered if Marcela Sherfy could have a copy of the book. Kirby said she would be getting a copy. Shirley Groff asked if the teachers guide was ready to be printed. Kirby said it would be ready by the beginning of the school year. He noted that by the fall semester it will be on line only. The teachers will have access to use it. At the end of this year we will get feed back from the teachers and then next spring the teachers guide will be printed. Kirby stated this grant allowed textbooks to be given to all Montana schools and the next grant could allow us to give textbooks to all Montana libraries. Sharon Lincoln asked Kirby how many books he intends to print in the next go around. Kirby said it depends on how much money is raised. His hope would be another 5,000 to give away and 2,000 to sell. Tom Nygard said it will be cheaper to print the book the second time

around. Kirby noted the only costs for the second printing would be for the corrections and the actual printing.

### **MUSEUM REPORT**

Bill Mercer reported the basement ADA restroom is completed and inspections passed. The hallway, meeting room and tour guide office is under construction. The goal is to have two public meeting rooms. He said the Secret Garden Tour held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> hit an attendance record. There were over 600 people participating in the tour this year. Bill announced there were 589 people go through the Original Governor's Mansion on this one day. He had a boy scouts at the door asking folks for their zip codes and found that 86% of the people responding were from Helena or the immediate vicinity. Bill noted that these numbers say we are doing a wonderful job connecting with the local community. Between 100 and 150 people are anticipated for the doll party. The good attendance indicates people are getting use to showing up for activities at the OGM.

On June 26<sup>th</sup> two exhibitions opened at MHS. The lobby area holds the "Sitting Proud" exhibit of Joseph Scheuerle's artwork. It consists of 40 works of art. He is one of the great unknown western artists. The portraits are from about 1895 – 1935 and are a gift from his grandson living in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This is a tremendous acquisition. The northeast gallery has an exhibition titled "Traditions in Color and Comfort" and features Montana's quilting heritage. The quilts are from our own collection. The attendance for both of these exhibits has been quite good and the exhibits will remain up until the end of April.

Bill reported that the museum staff was involved in the Indian Education for All Best Practices Conference and George Horse Capture and Steve Lozar were both presenters at the conference. Everyone went away with great information. Construction is near completion on the new Museum Store remodel. George Oberst has retired and reorganization is currently taking place. Bill announced Jennifer Bottomly-O'Looney will continue to act as Curator of Collections and will be the primary go-to person as the Curator of Art Collections. Bill will be the Museum Manager and act as the Curator of Ethnology. Being advertised at this time is a position for a Curator of History. This person will work with historical collections developing exhibitions and research. This person will be the primary go-to person for the OGM.

### **APPROVAL OF LOAN REQUEST FOR THE C. M. RUSSELL MUSEUM, GREAT FALLS, MONTANA**

The C. M. Russell Museum is developing a long term exhibition entitled "The Bison: American Icon, Heart of Plains Indian Culture". Being requested for this loan are 29 objects of Native American materials ranging in age from the mid 1800s to the 1960s. One doll in this collection will be held back so the number of items being approved will be 28 objects. The display will begin in December of this year through December of next year. They will be asking for a renewal and when they do so, he will address that issue. Bill stated he isn't keen on allowing objects to be loaned out for extended periods of time. He feels a one-year loan is appropriate and

due to the fact it is a State of Montana museum the recommended fee of \$100 has been waived. **Jim Court moved to approve the C. M. Russell Museum loan request for 28 Native American objects, including moccasins, vests, leggings, dolls and toys, rattles, spoons, and parfleches. Ed Smith seconded the motion. Lee Rostad asked if MHS would have adequate credit for loaning the items. Bill answered that they would. Tom Nygard commented that working together with the Russell Museum is a wonderful advantage and it should be a great exhibition. The motion carried unanimously.**

Steve Lozar wanted to acknowledge the work George Oberst did with the Indian tribes here in the state. He said there has been a general bad feeling from the older Indians about why the Historical Society has all of the Indian artifacts. Steve said he has had many opportunities to bring counsel people to the Historical Society to meet George. Each time a counsel person was brought to the Historical Society and introduced to George, saw the reverence George had for the artifacts, and the quality of the preservation of the artifacts they always felt good about having the artifacts here. It was a healing moment for the Indians. George was at the center of that healing moment. Steve said George was a real plus for the Society and for the Indian relationships around the state. Bill Mercer noted that on George's last day he told George I won't say good-bye, I will just say, see you later. George is part of the family.

### **IN HOUSE UPGRADES**

Denise King announced in this calendar year the MacKay Gallery will have a facelift and the MHS Auditorium will be updated. Shelving will be purchased for the Museum collection and the Research Center collection at the Scriver Center.

### **PUBLICATIONS MANAGER REPORT**

Denise King presented the report for Molly Holz. The summer magazine was mailed and features articles on the wild horse trade, Gallatin County 1872 mining law and two articles written by staff members Mark Baumler and Ellen Baumler. The 2009 membership calendar is at the printer. The pictures are from the Society's photo archives. The calendar will be for sale in the Museum Store by the end of July. The publications, membership and subscriptions mailing is currently at the printer. Two mailings are being tested, a traditional one and a fancier one, for a colored card to be mailed to 12,000 addresses purchased from the Smithsonian and the Montana Magazine lists. This is being done in an attempt to raise magazine subscriptions.

Lee Rostad announced the fourth annual Book Festival will be held August 7th, 8th and 9<sup>th</sup>. All the editors for Montana magazines have been invited to attend and there will be a panel discussion regarding the placement of these magazines. Ellen Baumler will stand in for Molly Holz during this festival. Lee said Ellen has been such a tremendous advertiser for the association and has done so much. She has articles constantly in Montana magazines and most are a work of love because they don't pay any money.

## **RESEARCH CENTER REPORT**

Molly Kruckenberg reported the Photograph Archivist position a year-long, full time position in the Photograph Archives has been filled. She also reported that the Montana County History Initiative Project was successful; it was attended by 24 people from across the six tourism regions in the state. They were excited to learn more about what the Historical Society can do for them in terms of training and workshops and how MHS can reach out and help them as they look to celebrate their centennials. Phase II for the MCHI Project will continue into this fiscal year. Molly explained that the attendees at the initial conference at the Montana Historical Society will be organizing conferences in their regions, which could feature workshops conducted by MHS staff. Two of the six regional regions, already have tentative dates set. In the next 12 months, there will be a conference organized by the MCHI project folks in each region, with assistance from MHS staff. Molly said if the Board members don't know who their MCHI Project representatives are and want to know, contact her. Molly reported she has been working for the last several months with the University of California on a NEH grant called the Western States and Territory Preservation Assistance Service. As part of this grant, preservation librarians are going to each of 13 states and territories in the Western United States and putting on disaster preparedness workshops. Montana is hosting three of these workshops. There is one in Helena, one in Missoula and one in Billings. The workshops are free. The Historical Society is a co-sponsor of the workshops and advertisements went to all Montana museums, archives and libraries around the state. Molly also encouraged everyone to view the Research Center's website because there is a lot of new digital information available. She also encouraged everyone to look at the Montana Memory Project, a joint project with the Montana State Library, which is where the Research Center is putting all of their digital resources.

## **APPROVAL OF THE DEACCESSION LIST**

Molly presented the March, 2008 deaccession list for recommendation. **Sharon Lincoln moved to approve the deaccession list. Katherine Lee seconded the motion.** Tom Nygard asked if everything would go to one person. Molly stated the items will go out to bid. The only exception would be if a library should see the list and come to us. Jim Court asked if the list is circulated to libraries. Molly said they do not circulate the list to libraries but they do circulate the list to the Board and to the staff. **The motion carried unanimously.**

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM (SHPO)**

Mark Baumler commented that he always likes to come to historic Lewistown. He spoke on the different ways in which the Society has been working in Lewistown over the years and continues to work here particularly the role that the State Historic Preservation Office has in Lewistown. He highlighted Lewistown as one of 15 SHPO supported certified local governments historic preservation programs in Montana. Mark introduced Zane Fulbright who is on the local CLG



Historic Preservation Commission in Lewistown. Zane is also the Cultural Resource Specialist at the Bureau of Land Management which has their field office in Lewistown. Zane thanked the Board for coming to Lewistown. He said there is an opportunity for federal agencies to consider joint projects with the Historical Society. He said he spoke with Richard about the possibilities of field schools and other opportunities with BLM and the forest service. Mark mentioned that SHPO does a lot of their art work through the local preservation offices and commissions in the CLG communities around Montana. There have been especially a lot of preservation projects over the years completed in Lewistown going back to the mid-80's. The Chair of our Historic Preservation National Register Review Board, Bob Valach also lives in Lewistown and is a third generation stone mason. He recently received a preservation award for life time achievement. Bob who couldn't be here today, has been on the Review Board for five years. Mark presented a walking tour pamphlet on historic districts in Lewistown, recently produced with Preserve America funds granted through SHPO. He noted that Lewistown has five national register historic districts including the downtown and several residential areas. The local community is interested in perhaps pursuing National Historic Landmark status for the Lewistown Satellite Airfield which was prominent in WWII B-17 bomber training and has a rare surviving building that housed the secret Norden bombsight that helped win the war. This is another aspect of the Historical Society working with Lewistown. Lewistown also has several historic building rehabilitation projects taking place. Pete Brown of SHPO is currently working with owners of the Judith Theatre which is being renovated and will be part of the federal tax credit program. Mark said part of St. Joseph Hospital is also being considered for the federal tax credit program to be re-developed into low-income housing. Finally, Mark announced that Kate Hampton has chosen to move on and work for the Montana Preservation Alliance. It is a non-profit state wide organization that advocates for historic preservation in Montana. He said he was very sorry to lose her and it is a great loss for the Society and a great gain for the Alliance.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Jim Murry stated most of his time has been taken up working on the new site selection. He spent a lot of time with the Chair of the Montana History Foundation and meeting with Betty Babcock, Joe Mazurek and Representatives of the Governor's office. Jim commented that the Board received a letter from Betty Babcock and probably got an email from Norma Jean Kelly. These communications were discussed in Executive Session and we will respond to Betty Babcock thanking her for contacting us. We won't be changing our position taken by the Board. We will acknowledge receipt of the letter. We want to endeavor to maintain good relationships. Jim commented on the wonderful attendance and activities on Wednesdays in July at the Society. The Pow Wow Committee prepared Indian tacos, played music and has games for the children. He also attended the Butte Folk Music celebration where the Historical Society had a booth. Jim reported he saw a lot of interest shown in the Society. Efforts are progressing to conduct an evaluation on Director Richard Sims. There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee immediately following this Board meeting. The evaluation will be presented at the Board Meeting in Glasgow in October. Jim asked if any of the Board members had anything to report from their committee meeting held on Thursday. Jim Court reported on the Membership Committee stating he met with Kim Ramuta. Memberships remain stagnate and ultimately they

are trying to appeal to the people of Montana to support the new Heritage Center. If we don't get our membership up to where we seem somewhat germane we are going to have a hard selling job. The first Board meeting he attended Jim challenged each Board member to get ten new members. Again, he is issuing this challenge. Tom Nygard and Jim discussed giving each high school graduate in Montana a membership in hopes of a lot of them joining the Society. He said there were 10,417 graduates a year ago. We need to find out what the cost would be to do this and try to find the funding source. There should be 30,000 or 40,000 members in the State of Montana, not the 1200 or 1300 we now have. Jim Murry noted that as a Board we should all endeavor to increase membership. Jim Court said it is a very good idea for us to carry membership pamphlets and offer them to people we meet. Sharon Lincoln reported that she and Lee worked on membership contacts while at the Moss Mansion Country Fair in June. They set up a booth at the fair for the third year. She said the old issues of *Montana Magazine of Western History* were handed out and they were very popular with people. Anytime we have the opportunity to do this in our communities it is a good activity and she encouraged the Board members to try and set up booths in their areas. She stated they also visited with a lot of people about the Montana history textbook. She visited with a number of people who were home schoolers and they were very excited about the textbook. Sharon directed them to the museum store for purchasing the textbooks.

### **Committee Interests**

Jim Murry said he wants to combine some committees in hopes of making the committees more meaningful. Jim presented some recommendations for committee interests and a handout outlining a short description of the work of each committee. He listed the members of the Executive/Finance Committee as follows: Jim Utterback, Steve Lozar, Sharon Lincoln, Tom Nygard, Kent Kelinkopf and Jim Murry. Richard Sims stated he concocted the Governance Committee which meets quarterly and combines nominating, policy oversight, by-law review and revision and awards. It's a new committee but in fact it combines a combination of sub-committees and it conducts the Board level house keeping work. Jim Murry presented the following suggested names for this committee: Shirley Groff, Ed Smith and Lee Rostad. Richard noted that the action packed and most fun committee is the Marketing/Membership/Programming Committee. It's the committee that gets the word out about Big Sky, Big Land, Big History, working with Kim on membership growth and programming. The following names were recommended: Katherine Lee, Jack Lepley and Crystal Shors. Jim Court announced he would like to be on this committee. Richard said he tried to give each member just one committee but if anyone wants to be on two committees that is fine with him. Strategic Planning Committee deals with the endless drama inside Helena as it effects our short term and long term strategies. The recommended names are as follows: Crystal Shors, Janene Caywood, Jim Court and the Executive Committee members. Richard wondered if Ed Smith might want to be on this committee. Ed Smith stated he would like to be on this committee. Richard commented that at the last Board meeting the Montana Heritage Commission that runs Virginia City/Nevada City announced it needed to form a deaccession committee and requires a combination of some of their Board and some of our Board. The Bovey collection, bought by the state, will be reviewed. Jim Utterback and Steve Lozar

volunteered to help with the brewery renovation and were recommended for this committee. The mandated by-law committees are covered under the Program Committees. The Historic Preservation is represented by Sharon Lincoln and Janene Caywood. The Museum is represented by George Horse Capture, Kent Kleinkopf, and Jack Lepley. Outreach and Interpretation is represented by Jim Court and Steve Lozar. Publications will be represented by Tom Nygard and Lee Rostad. Research is represented by Katherine Lee and Ed Smith. Jim Court questioned why there are two separate committees when there is a tie between Publications and Membership. Richard responded that strictly interpreting the Publications Committee the product is looked at rather than how to use the product. It's an informal editorial committee which understands the work as opposed to using the work. Kim Ramuta commented she sees Publications and Membership Committees as separate because Publications is intent in getting the product out. She feels it is her job to work internally to make sure that Publications, for instance the mailings, is used to push membership. What would be ideal is if Committees would push membership. Jim Murry asked the Board if they wished to approve the recommendations. **Sharon Lincoln moved to approve the recommendations made for the Committee Interests. Lee Rostad seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Jim Murry stated the by-laws of the Board of Trustees allow the Board to amend by-laws at meetings of the Executive Committee. Some time ago the Board made the decision that terms of office would be for two years. The by-laws state the terms are to be for one year. The change was discussed by the Executive Committee and it was decided to bring this matter before the Board. He asked for a motion to amend the by-laws Terms of Office to two terms rather than one term. **Jack Lepley moved to approve the change to the Board of Trustees by-laws: Terms of Expiration for Officers, by changing the terms of service to two terms rather than one term. Shirley Groff seconded the motion.** Sharon stated there are three officers and two members of the Executive Committee at Large and all are elected so this change should cover all of the Executive Committee. Jim clarified that all the terms would be for two years. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Jim Murry explained when the Board had the election of officers there was one person that was overlooked. He noted that by virtue of the by-laws there should be six people on the Executive Committee and it was discovered that we presently only have five. Shirley Groff would like to continue to serve on the Executive Committee and it is the recommendation of the Executive Committee that she be chosen for another two year period. **Sharon Lincoln moved to nominate Shirley Groff. Lee Rostad moved that the nominations be closed and cast the unanimous ballot for Shirley Groff. Tom Nygard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **Educator/Trustee Awards Discussion**

Discussion was opened by Shirley Groff regarding the difficulty in getting nominations for these awards. The Board simply isn't in touch with teachers and the applications received last year were not tops. She does feel the Trustee Award should go to Dr. Davis from Jefferson City because he was the Committee's first choice last year. She would like to keep everything as it is for this year. For next year Shirley suggests some changes be made. She suggests that both

awards be incorporated into one and named Heritage Keepers Award which is a Board level award. Shirley requested the Historical Society inventory all the awards they give and make sure none of the awards overlap in any other. The terms of Heritage Keepers Award would have to be worked out. The award would be kept with the people who do the work within the State of Montana. Shirley asked Richard if he wished to speak on this subject. Richard stated if the Board approves there will no longer be two awards but just one award called Heritage Keepers Award. A discussion can be pursued as to how often the Board wants to give that award, annually or an award at every Board meeting. If the Board approves this new award era really the work is getting the strong candidates. The shift in this process means the Board won't be just looking at an individual but will look at an organization, family or a tribe. Shirley commented the award can go to an educator also. Tom Nygard wondered if the Board should entertain the concept of adding a monetary aspect to the award. Richard stated he would argue that the Board put a little on the table with this award. It would not go to personal bank accounts but to the organizations they serve. Shirley noted that Katherine made the suggestion of a corporation financing the monetary aspect of the award. Richard said corporate sponsorship would be very attractive. **Sharon Lincoln made the motion to honor Dr. Davis with the Trustee's Award. Shirley Groff seconded the motion.** George Horse Capture commented he brought it up at the last meeting that he doesn't want to force this award on anyone. The process needs to be refined and done right. Katherine Lee stated Dr. Davis did apply last year and his application was excellent. Everything George mentioned does apply to the new spirit of the award and as the committee keeps working on the award process an update on the new way of doing things will be brought forth at the October Board meeting Richard said. Jim Court does not support the award because it seems like an impossibility to pick someone from around the State. In 100 years we couldn't even cover the State. He feels it is a nice thought but doesn't support the idea of a Trustee's Award just because there are too many museums with too many hard workers. He said each community has someone who works hard and is doing something great for the community. Jim questioned why pick one person at the risk of alienating 100 others who are doing equally good work. Jim Murry said this should be a discussion for the committee. He sees some progress is being made because there are tribes and organizations to honor and perhaps the emphasis should not be on individuals. Jim commented there are just too many entities to honor and picking one at the expense of the others doesn't seem right. Shirley reminded the Board there are many awards given through the Society and the Board won't be overlapping awards already being given. Richard responded there are at least 15 to 20 awards being given through the Society at this time. Katherine Lee said there is the aspiration aspect to the award which is to encourage others to participate. Jim stated he doesn't see that aspect. Jim reminded the Board there is a motion regarding Dr. Davis which needs to be voted. Discussion regarding awards can be carried on within the committee. **Motion carried unanimously to honor Dr. Davis with the Trustee's Award.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lewistown Historic Preservation Officer Duane Ferdinand spoke on the accomplishments seen over the years in Lewistown due to it becoming a historical community. There is so much more

interpretation that can be done to encourage visitors to stay longer. He appreciates the partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Montana Historical Society.

Jim Court asked to get tentative dates for the Board meetings in January and April and he suggested the meeting in July to be held in Butte in conjunction with the Folk Art Festival. Richard announced we will be in Glasgow in October for the Fall History Conference which will be held October 16th and 17th. In January, the Board will meet in Helena for the start of the Legislative session. The dates for the Board meeting will be January 15th and 16<sup>th</sup> of 2009. April 16th and 17th are the dates for the spring Board meeting and that meeting will be held in Helena. In July, the Board meeting would be the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and would coincide with the Folk Festival in Butte. **Steve Lozar moved to hold the July, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting in Butte at the same time as the Folk Festival will be held in Butte. Lee Rostad seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.